

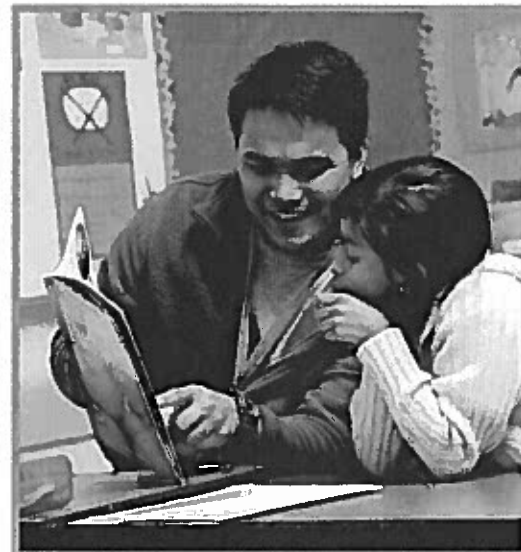
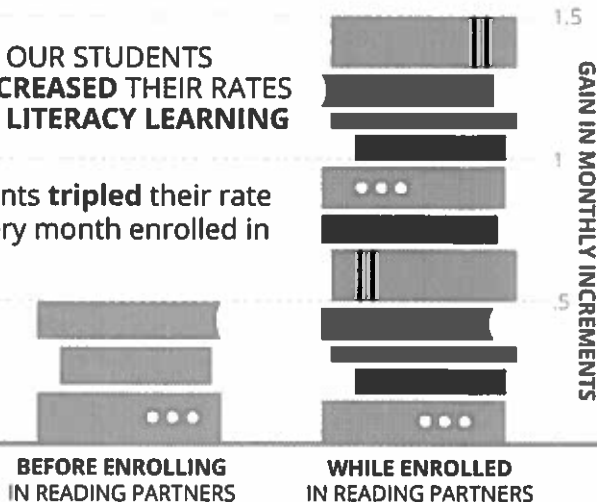


readingpartners

NATIONAL IMPACT REPORT 2014-15

90% OF OUR STUDENTS INCREASED THEIR RATES OF LITERACY LEARNING

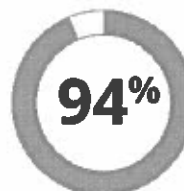
On average, students **tripled** their rate of learning for every month enrolled in Reading Partners.



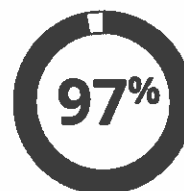
9 OUT OF 10 EMERGING READERS MASTERED KEY FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS



of students who were rated by their classroom teachers as having low to very low confidence **increased** their confidence level by year's end



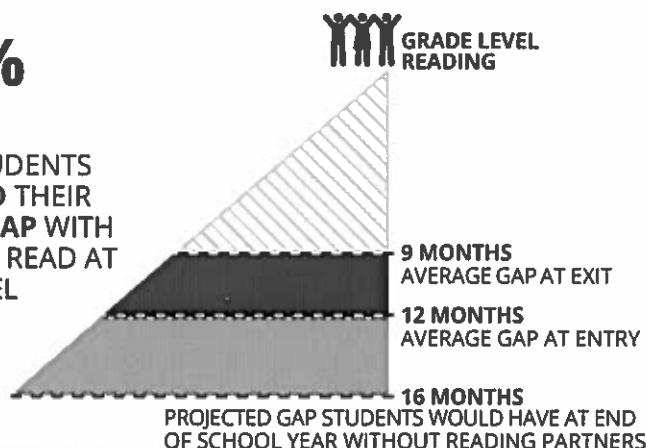
of principals responding reported **improved** reading progress school-wide



of volunteers responding were **satisfied** with their experience with Reading Partners

72%

OF OUR STUDENTS **NARROWED** THEIR LITERACY GAP WITH PEERS WHO READ AT GRADE LEVEL



8,900 
STUDENTS SERVED

169 
PARTNER SCHOOLS

12,300 
WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

228,633 
HOURS OF TUTORING

THE OKLAHOMAN

Oklahoma reading law continues to reap benefits

by The Oklahoman Editorial Board *Published: September 9, 2015*

WHEN state lawmakers voted to require that third-grade students be retained if they don't demonstrate a minimal level of reading skill, critics derided the law, claiming it would do little to improve academic performance while demoralizing children.

The results continue to prove those critics wrong.

Under Oklahoma's reading law, third-grade students must show they can read at a second-grade level or better on a state test before being promoted to the fourth grade. Students reading at a first-grade level or lower must repeat the third grade. The mandate has been in effect for students taking tests since spring 2014.

Keep in mind, students who fail the initial state test can still be promoted. Several alternative tests are available, so children who fail the initial test but subsequently pass an alternative can advance to the fourth grade. A child also can demonstrate reading proficiency by working with teachers to assemble a portfolio of work demonstrating basic literacy, or by successfully completing a summer reading academy.

Even when students fail to demonstrate literacy through any of those methods, lawmakers have since watered down the law to allow social promotion of students if school officials and a child's parents support it.

The law also exempts numerous students from the retention mandate, including many special education students or those learning English as a second language.

Yet even with all the exemptions and loopholes, thousands of children statewide have been required to repeat the third grade under the law.

So what are the results? Reading performance has improved. Imagine that!

This year, 70 percent of Oklahoma's fourth-grade students were rated "proficient" or better on state reading tests. That was a notable increase over 65 percent of fourth-grade students who achieved those marks in 2014.

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The law also exempts numerous students from the retention mandate, including many special education students or those learning English as a second language. Yet even with all the exemptions and loopholes, thousands of children statewide have been required to repeat the third grade under the law.

So what are the results? Reading performance has improved. Imagine that!

This year, 70 percent of Oklahoma's fourth-grade students were rated "proficient" or better on state reading tests. That was a notable increase over 65 percent of fourth-grade students who achieved those marks in 2014.

In Oklahoma City, the share of fourth-grade students rated proficient in reading surged from just 44 percent in 2014 to 54 percent this year. That progress is notable because those fourth-grade students were among the first required to demonstrate reading proficiency before being promoted to the fourth grade. What of third-grade scores? Some argued students forced to repeat a grade would be less motivated to learn and more likely to drop out. There's little evidence to support those claims. This year, the raw number of third-grade students did increase, due in part to retentions. Yet the percentage of third-grade students passing the reading test remained steady; there was no decline.

Research indicates that students who repeat a grade can reap long-term benefits. A Manhattan Institute study of a similar Florida law found that socially promoted students (who were functionally illiterate) appeared to fall further behind after two years. In contrast, students who were required to repeat the third grade were able to catch up and succeed in later grades. A follow-up Manhattan Institute study found that retained students still outperformed socially promoted peers in reading and math as late as seventh grade.

The benefits of Oklahoma's reading law should be obvious by now. Students who can't read by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Yet for too long many functionally illiterate students were socially promoted in Oklahoma. By increasing the emphasis on literacy, those children are now being given a better education — and greater lifelong opportunities as well.



readingpartners

one tutor. one child. infinite possibilities.

www.readingpartners.org

Reading Partners is a national education nonprofit that works with Title I elementary schools to support students who are reading six months to two-and-a-half years below grade-level. Reading Partners recruits and trains community volunteers to deliver a highly effective, research-validated curriculum that has helped thousands of children master foundational reading skills.

In 2014, leading research firm MDRC released initial findings of a randomized control trial that confirmed that Reading Partners is effective in helping students improve reading skills and get back on track to succeed in school and beyond.

BY THE NUMBERS

+12,000

Volunteers

+8,500

Students

+165

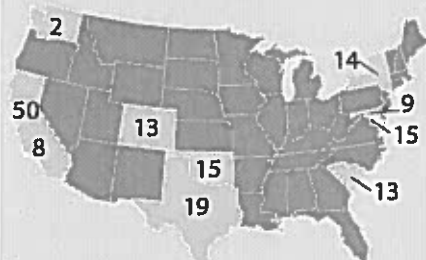
Reading Centers

22M

FY15 Operating Budget

AREAS SERVED

Number of School Partners



- 26 San Francisco Bay Area, CA
- 9 Sacramento, CA
- 24 Silicon Valley, CA
- 8 Los Angeles, CA
- 2 Seattle, WA
- 13 Colorado
- 15 Tulsa, OK
- 19 Dallas, TX
- 13 Charleston, SC
- 15 Washington, DC
- 9 Baltimore, MD
- 14 New York, NY

Going to Scale

- Reading Partners was one of only nine organizations selected to receive a \$3.5 million growth investment from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and the Social Innovation Fund. Reading Partners is managing a second Social Innovation Fund sub-grant supported by Mile High United Way in Colorado.
- This investment helped Reading Partners grow from a few schools in California to over 160 schools across nine states and the District of Columbia. Throughout this growth, our student outcomes have remained consistently strong.



National Service

Reading Partners is a proud partner with the Corporation for National and Community Service. Our reading centers are powered by dedicated AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. In the 2014-15 school year, Reading Partners received \$2,626,155 from the Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps State Commissions to support the work of our AmeriCorps members, who now outnumber our full-time staff.



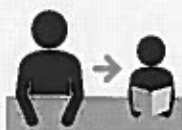
THE CHALLENGE IS SIGNIFICANT.

In the US, 4 out of 5 fourth graders from low-income families cannot read at grade level.

4x

STRONG READING SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL.

Children who cannot read proficiently by the fourth grade are four times less likely to graduate on time—hindering their chances to succeed in college, career, and life.



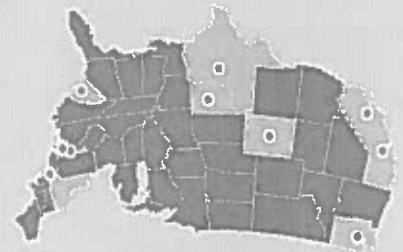
READING PARTNERS WORKS.

Equipped with an easy-to-use, highly effective curriculum, Reading Partners' tutors have helped thousands of students become strong, confident readers.

BOARD MEMBERS

Kristyn Klei Borrero
Dan Carroll
Stephanie Cohen
Catherine Cockrum Dean, Chair
Walter Elcock
Susan Hayes
Ted MacDonald
Anne Popkin
Andrea Rice
Mark Sexton
Jamie Slaughter
Kathy Taylor
CEO: Michael Lombardo

Where we Serve

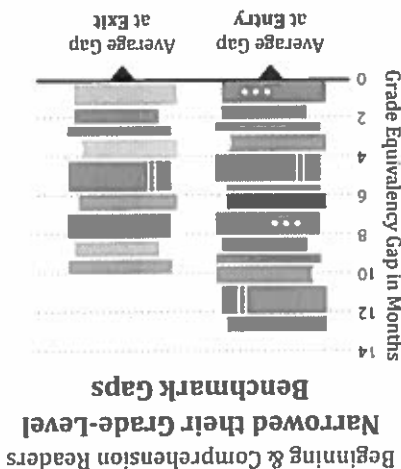
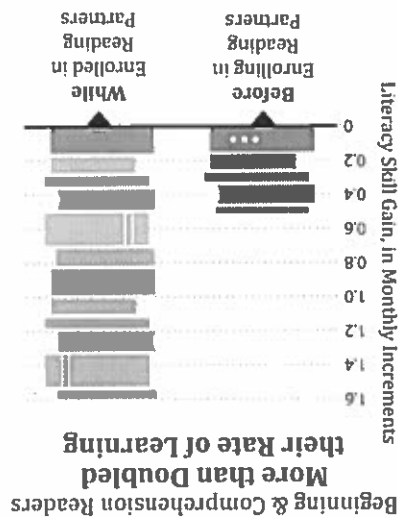


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Our Impact

Reading Partners is dedicated to ensuring that each student gains the critical reading skills they need to prepare them for academic, social, and civic success. That's why monitoring and evaluation are core to the Reading Partners model. During the 2013-14 school year:



of target students increased their monthly rates of literacy learning.

89%

of students narrowed their literacy gaps with their peers who read at grade level.

72%

Organizational Growth

Since our founding, Reading Partners has grown exponentially, shifting from a local Bay Area organization to a national organization that is currently serving over 8,500 students in more than 165 schools throughout eight states and the District of Columbia.

